

## CYPRAEA LEUCODON Broderip, 1828

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This species has heretofore been known only from a single specimen in the British Museum. The Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University possesses another specimen of this remarkable mollusc.

Our specimen has no locality data other than "Indian Ocean". It was originally in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History. In 1918, all of that society's non-New England material was transferred to the Museum of Comparative Zoology. The original catalogue number (1206) was entered very early, probably around 1840, which would indicate that this specimen, as well as that of the British Museum, was collected well over a century ago. This fact in itself may possibly give us a lead as to a probable locality.

During the early days of the East India trade, sailing vessels made stops at many islands in the Indian Ocean. Contrary winds, storms or other delays made it imperative to replenish supplies of fruits and fresh meat, particularly the former, to combat the dreaded deficiency disease of scurvy. Thus, vessels well off-course would stop at any of these remote islands to take on provisions. May not one of these islands be the locality of *C. leucodon*?

Sailors engaged in the East India trade were aware of the value of shells, as the curio stores must have depended largely upon them for the specimens which frequently found their way into the cabinets of European collectors.

One such island group, the Chagos Archipelago, is known to have at least a few remarkable endemic marine species such as *Conus barthelemyi* Bernardi and *Cypraea barclayi* Reeve. It is possible that *leucodon* may be from this remote and very small archipelago.

### Bibliography:

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- Cypraea leucodon* Broderip. Hidalgo 1907, *Mem. R. Acad. Mad.* 25: 396.
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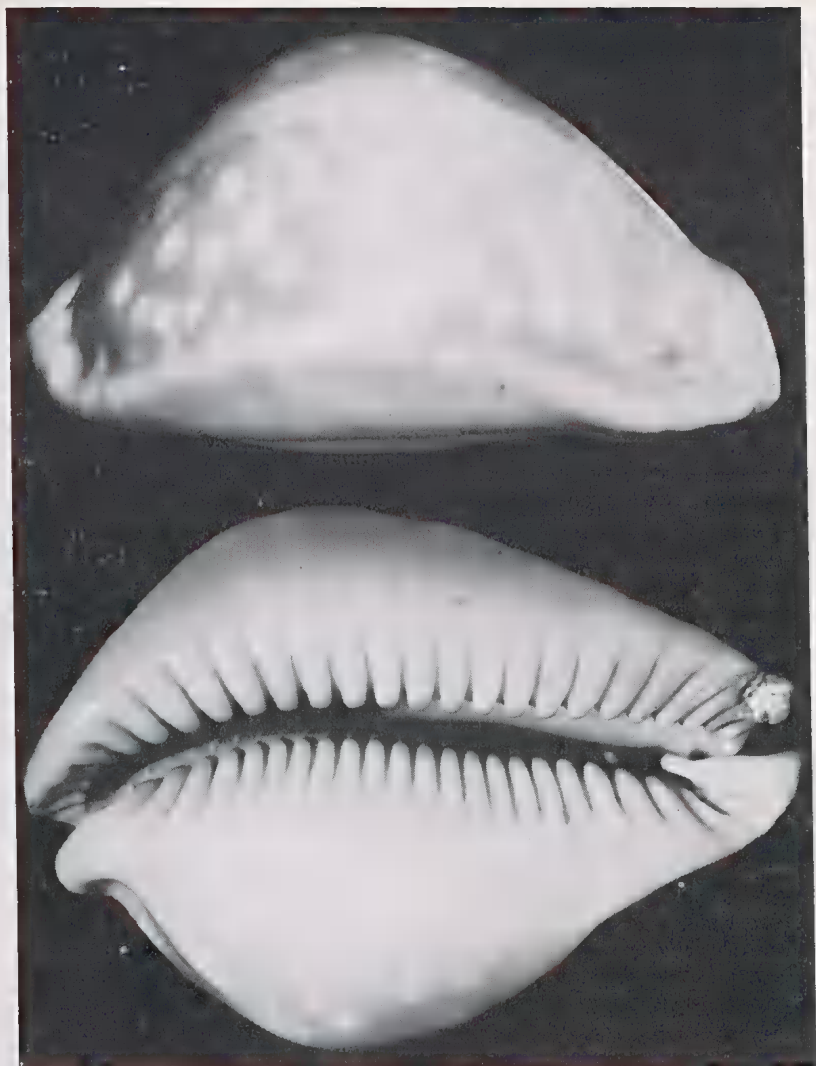


PLATE 2.

*Cypraea leucodon* Broderip, 1828.

Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. No. 38370. 1.24 X.

Length	Height	Width
77.5 mm.	43 mm.	54.5 mm.

The colouration of this specimen is very similar to that of the original figure of Broderip.